

Being in care

Lots of mixed up feelings
And confusion in your head.
Not knowing what's gonna happen
Or where your gonna lay your head.
Hearing stories of what cares like,
Some good, some bad,
Feeling really anxious,
But mostly sad.
It can be a good experience,
As well as weird and a bit strange.
Just knowing things will get better,
As your life begins to change.
So stop feeling so scared
Just smile and be BRAVE
Poem by Kerrie (care leaver, aged 19)

If you have difficulty understanding this in English, please contact:
Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 English

যদি আপনার এটি ইংরেজিতে বুঝতে অসুবিধা হয় তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 Bengali

Si vous avez des difficultés à comprendre ce texte en anglais, veuillez contacter: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 French

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Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 પર સંપર્ક કરો. Gujarati

यदि इसे अंग्रेजी में समझने में समस्या हो तो कृपया Wandsworth Interpreting Service
का (020) 8672 1043/3649 पर संपर्क करें। Hindi

W razie problemów ze zrozumieniem tekstu w języku angielskim prosimy
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Se tem dificuldades em compreender isto em Inglês, por favor,
contacte: Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 Portuguese

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اگر آپ کو انگریزی میں اسے سمجھنے میں دشواری کا سامنا ہو تو برائے کرم رابطہ کریں:
Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 Urdu

Wandsworth Children's Service
Wandsworth Council

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being looked after...
**What does
it mean?**



number one for
service and value





About you

Sometimes, children and young people are not able to live with their parents and family. There are a lot of different reasons why this might happen. It might be because of family illness or people are worried about a child or young person's safety.

If you are reading this, then you have probably moved away from your family and you might have lots of questions as to why this is all happening. You might be feeling scared, confused, happy or angry.

This is normal and everyone copes differently.

Remember, what is happening is not your fault and we will try to make you feel safe and supported.

Looking after you

When you are looked after, a social worker will make plans with you to live somewhere else where you will be looked after properly.

There are different types of places that you might live. It could be with a relative, like an auntie or grandparent, or with another family in their home, or in one of our family resource centres where a number of young people might live.

When you become looked after, you may feel like people are asking you lots of questions and getting you to fill in lots of forms but this is because we want to make sure we get things right for you as we plan for your future. Some of the things that you will need to be involved in include:

Placement Agreement

This is an agreement between you, us and the people who are caring for you and covers things like rules of the house, e.g. bedtimes, pocket money, activities (like going out to the cinema or going swimming) etc. It covers the plans for your schooling, ensuring your health needs are met. It will also include your religious, cultural needs and contact with your family and friends.

Reviews

These are regular meetings that will happen until you leave care. When you first come into care, you will have a review within three to four weeks of being looked after.

At your review the person chairing the meeting is responsible for asking how you are and will check that you know how to get support and questions answered etc.

Care Plan

This is a plan which sets out where you are going to live and who needs to do what to make sure that you are properly looked after. It is reviewed regularly and your views will be included.

What if I'm not happy?

If you are feeling unhappy, have any questions or worries, talk to your social worker or the person who cares for you.

If you are still unhappy, we can arrange for someone from Voice a charity to contact you to help you. This service is independent and confidential and they can help you express your views, and if necessary, they will help you make a complaint to the Children's Service department.

You can also talk directly to the children's complaints officer on freephone 0800 587 7787 or email childrenscomplaints@wandsworth.gov.uk.

For more information about being looked after, visit the website exclusively for young people looked after by Wandsworth. Go to: www.itsallaboutus.info



it's all about **us**